United Nations S/2011/509

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 September 2011
English
Original: French

Letter dated 9 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Gabon in June 2011 (see annex). The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Noël Nelson **Messone**

11-49163 (E) 200911 210911

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 9 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Gabon (June 2011)

Introduction

During the presidency of the Security Council of Gabon, in the month of June 2011, the Security Council took up a range of issues from various geographical areas, including the situation in Africa (Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African subregion, Horn of Africa, Libya and Guinea-Bissau) and in the Middle East. The Council also heard a regular briefing by the Department of Political Affairs, a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, and a briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa (19 to 26 May 2011). The Council also addressed the thematic issue of the impact of HIV/AIDS on international peace and security and discussed its responses to a request submitted by Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopia on the situation in the region. The Council also examined the work of some of its subsidiary bodies and recommended the reappointment of Ban Ki-moon as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term. In the month of June, the Security Council held 28 official meetings, including 3 debates, 25 consultations, 2 private meetings and an interactive dialogue with a ministerial delegation from the African Union. The Council adopted 12 resolutions and 2 presidential statements and issued 5 press statements.

Africa

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

On 3 June, the members of the Council met with Abou Moussa, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), which was recently created and is headquartered in Gabon.

In his statement, the Special Representative first thanked the Council for having accepted his nomination and for giving him the opportunity to voice his views on the mission entrusted to him.

He then reported on the connections he was making or pursuing with countries in the Central African subregion, including the host country, and with regional organizations. He underscored the need to build ties with the United Nations agencies in the subregion, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The Special Representative also stated that he expected to draw on the experience of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa.

Council members expressed their great interest in the work of UNOCA, particularly with regard to preventive diplomacy. Several members emphasized that subregional issues needed to be studied and analysed to gain a better understanding of pervasive problems there and to muster stronger international support for regional initiatives to address those challenges.

The Council members underscored the need for coordination with regional organizations to avoid a duplication of effort and to promote synergies that would lead to a better understanding of the mandate of the Office. For example, they urged coordination between United Nations agencies in the subregion, particularly with respect to good governance, human rights, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

Some members noted the role that UNOCA should play in creating a harmonized United Nations approach to addressing the regional threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Some members suggested that the Office should provide support for electoral processes and help States in the subregion develop their national capacities in this area.

Peace and security in Africa

On 21 June, the Council heard a statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, Zachary Muburi-Muita.

The Special Representative described measures undertaken by the Office to improve the coordination of peace and security initiatives between the African Union and the United Nations, particularly in Somalia and Darfur. He also said that the Office was focusing on strengthening the capacities of regional mediation mechanisms, along with other aspects. The Council members reiterated their expectations for the Office, stressing the visibility and effectiveness of the United Nations presence in Addis Ababa.

Several members underscored the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union with respect to preventive diplomacy and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law.

Lastly, Council members indicated that they looked forward to examining the first report on the work of the Office with great interest as soon as it became available.

Report of the Security Council mission to Africa

The Security Council met on 6 June 2011 to hear the report of the Security Council mission to Africa conducted from 19 to 26 May 2011 in Ethiopia, the Sudan and Kenya. The Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Gérard Araud, led the Addis Ababa segment. The Permanent Representative of the United States of America, Susan Rice, and the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, Vitaly Churkin, jointly led the Khartoum, Kadugli and Juba segment. Lastly, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mark Lyall Grant, and the Permanent Representative of South Africa, Baso Sangqu, jointly led the Nairobi segment.

In Addis Ababa, at the African Union headquarters, the members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union continued their exchange on ways and means of forging an effective partnership and strengthening cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on issues of mutual interest.

Members of both bodies exchanged views on the major issues of the day pertaining to peace and security in Africa, in particular the situations in the Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Côte d'Ivoire.

In the Sudan, Council members met with Sudanese political leaders in Khartoum and Juba. At each of those visits, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for Sudan chaired by President Mbeki of South Africa. The Council also assessed the preparations concerning the independence of South Sudan, in particular with respect to security, humanitarian aid, development and capacity-building.

Situation in Abyei

The Security Council members invited the parties to agree on other pending matters related to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and on post-Agreement measures to be undertaken and to consult with the United Nations on the future presence of the United Nations in the Sudan.

Council members reiterated their support for the peace process overseen by the African Union and the United Nations under the auspices of the State of Qatar.

In Nairobi, Council members met with the Somali political leadership. The Council expressed its deep concern at the chronic instability prevailing in Somalia, in particular with regard to terrorism, piracy along the Somali coastline and the catastrophic humanitarian situation.

They condemned all terrorist attacks and bombings perpetrated against the Transitional Federal Government, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the civilian population by armed groups and foreign fighters, most notably Al-Shabaab.

The Council members reiterated their support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, and for the measures undertaken by the United Nations and the African Union towards achieving peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

They urged the Transitional Federal Institutions to engage fully and constructively in the consultation process, including in the consultation meeting to be held in Mogadishu by the Special Representative.

The Council members asked all States, in particular those in the region, to enforce the weapons embargoes against Somalia and Eritrea.

Lastly, they reiterated that it was important for the international community to continue supporting stabilization, peacebuilding and social and economic reconstruction efforts in Somalia.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was the subject of five formal meetings of the Council and one informal expert-level meeting. On 3 June, Council members met with troop-contributing countries; on 9 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, Roger Meece, submitted the latest report of the Secretary-General; and on 13 June, in consultations, the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, spoke in her capacity as Chair of the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004).

The meeting of 9 June, in which the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Atoki Ileka, participated, focused on the presidential and legislative elections to be held on 28 November 2011.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo noted that the security risk factors now present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were not the same as those that had existed during the 2006 elections. He highlighted the fact that MONUSCO was providing valuable technical support for the electoral process, but that the Mission would need additional financial resources in order to continue to do so. He also noted that MONUSCO military operations had been affected by the reduction in the number of helicopters at its disposal.

With regard to armed groups, the Special Representative said that LRA was the main threat to the civilian population. The only way to significantly reduce or eliminate the group's impact was to remove its leaders, three of whom had been indicted by the International Criminal Court.

Concerning the illegal exploitation of mineral resources, the Special Representative stated that even if MONUSCO planned to continue assisting the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to set up centres for tracing minerals mined and sold in the east of the country, it was still necessary to coordinate international efforts to combat illegal exploitation.

The Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo stated that improving the organization and the holding of the upcoming elections under the best possible conditions was a major challenge for his Government and the international community. He also noted that his country supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General for a one-year extension of the mandate of MONUSCO.

He further requested the renewal of those provisions of resolution 1925 (2010) that, with a view to the progressive and orderly withdrawal of MONUSCO, gave the joint assessment team a mandate to take part in decision-making. He also stated that his country anticipated the assistance of MONUSCO in reforming the national police force, which would be called on to provide security during the elections. Regarding the reform of the national army, he said a bilateral approach was preferred.

The members of the Council expressed their support for extending the MONUSCO mandate and for providing technical support to make credible and transparent elections possible. While recognizing the overall improvement in the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Council members

expressed their concern at the activities of armed groups, in particular the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and LRA. They believed that the protection of the civilian population must remain a priority for MONUSCO.

During the meeting of 13 June, the Council members welcomed the improvement in relations between the Congolese authorities and the group of experts of the sanctions Committee and the intensification of efforts to combat the illegal exploitation of the country's natural resources. They also welcomed regional cooperation in that regard, pointing out the link between illegal exploitation of natural resources and the financing of rebel groups. Lastly, they reiterated the need for security sector reform.

On 28 June 2011, the Security Council adopted resolution 1991 (2011), extending the mandate of MONUSCO until 30 June 2012.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 29 June, the Security Council adopted resolution 1992 (2011), extending until 30 September 2011 the transfer of three helicopters from the United Nations Mission in Liberia to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Guinea-Bissau

On 28 June 2011, the Security Council heard statements of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), Joseph Mutaboba; the Minister of Defence of Guinea-Bissau, Aristides Ocante da Silva; and the current Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Manuel Augusto. The Council was also briefed by the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, in her capacity as the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The speakers acknowledged that Guinea-Bissau continued to face numerous challenges despite the praiseworthy efforts of the Government. They also welcomed the adoption on 24 March 2011 by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of the road map jointly developed by ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the granting of $63 million for security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau. The speakers also welcomed the progress achieved through bilateral cooperation, in particular with Angola, Brazil and Portugal.

In its press statement, the Council stressed the need for the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to establish civilian control over the security forces of Guinea-Bissau, to make progress on security sector reform and to create effective, professional and accountable security forces that respect the rule of law. It also called for criminal prosecution of those guilty of political assassinations and drug trafficking.

The Permanent Representative of Brazil welcomed the establishment of the pension fund for former combatants, a key component of security sector reform. She also expressed satisfaction with the decision of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to contribute $4.5 million to the fund.

Members of the Council said that, while the improved security and political situation in Guinea-Bissau was encouraging, it must be viewed in relative terms, in particular in the light of the investigations into the assassinations of 2009.

Members of the Council also expressed the view that national ownership of peacebuilding tasks, civilian control of the military and drug trafficking continued to be serious concerns.

Libya

The situation in Libya was addressed four times in June 2011.

On 15 June, the Council held a meeting with the high-level ad hoc Committee on Libya of the African Union, chaired by Mauritania and comprising South Africa, the Congo, Mali and Uganda.

In a statement made on behalf of the ad hoc Committee, Mauritania reaffirmed the support of the African Union for Security Council resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), noting the obligation of all Member States and other relevant international actors to fully comply with their letter and spirit. Mauritania noted that continuing military operations in Libya presented new challenges with respect to the likelihood of a democratic transition and the security and stability of countries in the region. Mauritania also regretted the marginalization of the African Union in the management of a conflict that concerned it first and foremost.

Mauritania expressed the Committee's support for the use of the road map proposed by the African Union that called for an immediate end of hostilities, the cooperation of Libyan authorities in allowing humanitarian assistance, the protection of foreign nationals and the implementation of the necessary political reforms leading to democratic elections.

On 27 June, the Council held a public meeting to hear a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Lynn Pascoe, on the situation in Libya. The public meeting was followed by consultations in which the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on post-conflict planning, Ian Martin, participated.

With regard to the political situation, the Under-Secretary-General said that the early signs of a negotiating process should be encouraged by the international community. He also informed the Council that the International Criminal Court had issued warrants for the arrest of Colonel Muammar al-Qadhafi, his son, Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi, and Abdullah al-Senussi, head of the Libyan security services, for crimes against humanity.

The Under-Secretary-General also stated that the Secretary-General had held talks with the Libyan authorities, the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), as well as with other international actors, to find a solution to this crisis. He applauded the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Libya for his efforts to bridge the differences between parties, initiate direct negotiations, end hostilities and facilitate reliable humanitarian access.

Members of the Security Council expressed their grave concern at the precarious humanitarian situation, and called on the Libyan authorities to halt abuses against the civilian population. They repeated their call for a credible,

verifiable and unconditional ceasefire and stressed the need for an agreed political solution to resolve the crisis and improve the welfare of the civilian population.

Somalia

Political process

On 17 June, the Council held a public briefing on Somalia and heard a report by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

The Under-Secretary-General told the Council that the security situation had improved significantly in Somalia, particularly in the capital. Meanwhile, Al-Shabaab was continuing to experience numerous defections and to lose popular support.

He also reported that the deployment of 4,000 additional troops to reinforce AMISOM forces in Somalia was nearing completion. India and the European Union had provided additional funding.

Regarding the political scene, the situation remained volatile, mainly owing to persisting disagreements within the Transitional Federal Institutions.

He updated the Council on the road map proposed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, which was expected to be adopted at a conference of Somalis, in July 2011 in Mogadishu.

The Council members welcomed the progress made in Somalia with respect to security. They commended the efforts of the Special Representative to promote peace in Somalia.

Council members expressed support for the Kampala Accord and called on the Somali authorities to implement it swiftly. Some delegations expressed concern that the Accord was not inclusive enough.

Piracy

During the public briefing of the Council held on 21 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Patricia O'Brien, described the various options for the establishment of specialized Somali courts to try suspected pirates both in Somalia and in the region, including an extraterritorial Somali specialized anti-piracy court. She stressed that the timeline for the establishment of an extraterritorial Somali court was not certain. The major factors affecting this process were the Transitional Federal Government and relevant Somali regional authorities' opposition to that idea and a shortage of Somali legal professionals.

Ms. O'Brien also reported that the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) were already implementing support programmes to strengthen the capacity of local tribunals in Somaliland and Puntland.

In addition, she informed Council members that the Government of Tanzania had expressed its readiness to host the extraterritorial Somali court.

In her view, if it was decided to create an extraterritorial court, it would be essential to make respective arrangements between the Transitional Federal Government and the host State.

The Council expressed support for strengthening the capacities of the courts in Puntland and Somaliland. It was divided, however, with respect to the creation of an extraterritorial court. Some delegations believed that the establishment of such a court would be costly and of marginal benefit and that the Council should build capacity in Somaliland and Puntland instead.

Other delegations supported the idea of an extraterritorial court governed by a Somali legal code. They invited Somali parties to continue discussions on the matter, and expressed their intention to continue their efforts aimed at the establishment of an effective anti-piracy judicial mechanism with international participation.

Sudan

The Sudan was the subject of several Security Council meetings held in June. In addition to the International Criminal Court prosecution of President Al-Bashir, the Council was closely monitoring the security and humanitarian crisis in Abyei and South Kordofan and the developing political process in Darfur.

International Criminal Court

On Wednesday, 8 June 2010, the Security Council examined the report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, on the work of his Office in the Sudan over the preceding six months.

The Prosecutor described the investigations that the International Criminal Court had carried out since the adoption of resolution 1593 (2005), which referred the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor. He reiterated the accusations of war crimes and crimes against humanity facing the President of the Republic of the Sudan, Omar Al-Bashir, the Governor of Southern Kordofan, Ahmad Harun, and the tribal leader, Ali Kushayb.

He highlighted the lack of cooperation on the part of the Government of the Sudan with the Court with respect to the arrest and handover of Ahmad Harun and Ali Kashayb. He also stated that genocide continued to be perpetrated in particular against the Fur, Zaghawa and Massaleit tribes, seen as disloyal to the regime.

The Prosecutor also noted that the President of the Sudan had transformed his criminal liability into a bargaining tool, in particular by blocking humanitarian agencies and attributing the crimes to tribal clashes.

In that regard, the Prosecutor asked the Council to identify ways to compel the Government of the Sudan to cooperate fully with the Court and to use the information provided to stop the crimes in Darfur.

During consultations, some delegations reproached the Sudan for its refusal to cooperate with the International Criminal Court. In particular, they believed that the Government had not fulfilled its commitments and that it continued to impose restrictions on the movements of humanitarian workers with the aim of hiding its policy of extermination. They therefore called on the Sudanese authorities to implement the Security Council resolutions.

Other delegations, on the other hand, reiterated their wish to see the International Criminal Court adopt an impartial approach and to reconcile the need for justice and the need for peace and stability in the Sudan.

Situation in Abyei and Southern Kordofan

On Monday, 20 June 2011, the Council examined the situation in Abyei and Southern Kordofan, which was marked by violent clashes between the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

In particular, the Council discussed the negotiations held in Addis Ababa, under the aegis of the African Union and the United Nations, which were expected to put an end to hostilities.

The President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, and Haile Menkerios, in their capacity as mediators, told the Council that the Government of the Sudan and SPLM had signed an agreement on temporary arrangements for the administration and security of Abyei and asked for the quick deployment of Ethiopian troops to Abyei.

The agreement also included provisions for the withdrawal of the Sudanese Armed Forces from the region and the return of refugees and displaced persons.

Mr. Menkerios and Mr. Mbeki stressed the urgent need to implement the agreement without delay in order to put an end to fighting, allow displaced persons to return and enable aid workers to conduct effective interventions in the affected areas.

With regard to the situation in Southern Kordofan, Mr. Mbeki informed Council members that negotiations with the representatives of that region and of the Sudan would start on 21 June 2011 in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the African Union panel and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Lastly, Mr. Mbeki stated that the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for Sudan would continue to help the parties to move forward on post-referendum arrangements.

Representatives of northern and southern Sudan, Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman and Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, who participated in the meeting, reiterated the commitment of their respective Governments to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in Abyei and Southern Kordofan. Gatkuoth said the situation in Southern Kordofan risked degenerating into "ethnic cleansing and possibly genocide". The Permanent Representative of the Sudan told the Council that the Government of the Sudan may be on the verge of agreeing to allow humanitarian access into Southern Kordofan and that if it had not happened by 22 June there would be consultations to achieve a solution. He further stated that the Sudan had declared its presence in Abyei to be temporary and that it would withdraw once an agreement on security had been reached. Gatkuoth stressed that the United Nations presence in Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, as well as in the border areas, must continue, pending the final resolution of the outstanding issues under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Council members welcomed the temporary agreement signed by the parties, as well as the commitment of the Government of Ethiopia, to deploy troops in the Abyei region under a United Nations mandate.

The delegation of the United States of America announced that it would soon submit to the Council a draft resolution for Council consideration to authorize the creation of the proposed interim security force for Abyei. Council members also condemned violent acts against the civilian population in Abyei and Southern

Kordofan, and called on the parties to end hostilities and lift the restrictions placed on aid workers and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS).

On 27 June, the Council adopted resolution 1990 (2011), in which it established the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), as provided in the agreement of 20 June.

Darfur

The Council held an informal interactive meeting on 22 June 2011 with the African Union/United Nations Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur, Djibrill Bassolé, and Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani.

The meeting was intended to brief Security Council members on the outcome of the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference held in Doha from 27 May to 31 May under the aegis of the Joint Chief Mediator and the Government of Qatar.

The mediators announced to the Council members the adoption of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and its potential to serve as the basis of a peace process in Darfur.

The mediation team requested continued support from the Council for the Doha peace talks.

After the meeting, the Council adopted a press statement that called on all parties to reach a permanent ceasefire and a comprehensive peace agreement as soon as possible on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

Asia

Middle East

Briefings by the Department of Political Affairs

On 23 June 2011, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East, specifically on the persistent impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. He reiterated the calls issued by the Secretary-General and the Middle East Quartet on 20 May 2011 for a prompt return to negotiations, and noted that the Secretary-General believes that the ideas offered by President Barack Obama in his speech of 19 May 2011 could help move the peace talks forward.

The Under-Secretary-General also reported on Israel's continued settlements activity and the strong view of the United Nations that assistance for the population of Gaza should be delivered through official crossings.

The members of the Council renewed their support for the resumption of direct peace talks between Palestinians and the Israelis. Some members also reiterated their condemnation of Israel's continued construction of settlements in the Arab territories.

With respect to Lebanon, the Under-Secretary-General reported that a new Government had been formed on 13 June. The Secretary-General looked forward to its full cooperation in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). Council

members welcomed the formation of a new Government and expressed the hope that it would work to resolve security concerns posed by armed groups. They also urged the Lebanese authorities to encourage and strengthen national dialogue, as well as its cooperation with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

With regard to the Golan, Council members deplored the incident of 5 June. Some members saw the Syrian Arab Republic as responsible for the incident, claiming that Syrian forces stationed at the demarcation line had deliberately allowed demonstrators to cross the line. Some delegations saw the negligence of the Syrian forces as a manoeuvre by Damascus in an attempt to turn international opinion away from the violence perpetrated against peaceful demonstrators in the Syrian Arab Republic. Some other delegations pointed out the excessive use of force by the Israeli military.

Regarding developments in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Under-Secretary-General stated that, notwithstanding the difficulties the United Nations Secretariat had encountered in obtaining specific information on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the information supplied by the media and independent observers indicated serious violations of human rights against peaceful demonstrators.

Several Council members expressed their grave concern at the escalation of violence that had resulted in numerous victims among the civilian demonstrators.

Several other members expressed reservations about whether the Syrian Government bore the sole responsibility for the ongoing violence in the country. These delegations were opposed to the consideration of a draft resolution put forward by four other Council members, arguing that action by the Council in response to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic could prove counterproductive. Other delegations rejected the claim that the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic was a threat to international peace and security.

On 6, 17 and 24 June, Council members heard a briefing by the Special Adviser for Yemen, Jamal Benomar, concerning the situation there.

He described the difficulties facing the Government of Yemen in implementing reforms that would satisfy and appease local leaders. He also noted that the rejection by young demonstrators of the proposals made by the Yemeni authorities had aggravated the political impasse.

On 24 June, the members of the Security Council adopted a press statement in which they expressed serious concern at the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Yemen. They urged the parties to show greater restraint and to engage in an inclusive political dialogue.

Council members welcomed the mediation efforts undertaken by the Gulf Cooperation Council to help the parties reach an agreement.

Security Council members welcomed the announcement of a mission to Yemen by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights scheduled for 27 June to 6 July 2011.

Iraq

On 30 June 2011, the Council adopted a press statement concerning the Development Fund for Iraq.

The Council members welcomed the assumption of the Government of Iraq of full autonomy over the proceeds of the Development Fund for Iraq as at 1 July 2011.

Council members welcomed the establishment by the Government of Iraq of a successor arrangement for the transition of the Development Fund for Iraq, consistent with resolution 1956 (2010), and the ongoing efforts and commitment of the Government of Iraq to ensure that oil revenue is used in the interests of the Iraqi people, and to ensure that transition arrangements remain consistent with the Constitution and with international best practices in respect of transparency, accountability and integrity.

Lastly, Council members urged Iraq to continue to comply with relevant resolutions on that issue, including paragraph 21 of resolution 1483 (2003) and resolution 1956 (2010).

Iraq/Kuwait

On 22 June, the Council heard a report by the Secretary-General's high-level coordinator, Gennady Tarasov, concerning missing Kuwaiti persons and property. He stated that limited progress had been made.

In his view, the two parties, Kuwait and Iraq, needed to restore mutual trust and pursue their cooperation with a view to a final settlement of the matter.

The Council members urged Iraq to accelerate the settlement of pending matters in accordance with its commitments under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 23 June, during his briefing to the Security Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs discussed the events of 5 June 2011 in the Syrian Golan, which were threatening the long-established ceasefire.

Some Council members expressed deep regret over the incident, the first of its kind in many years. Several delegations maintained that the Syrian Arab Republic had deliberately allowed the Palestinian demonstrators to cross the security cordon and reach the demarcation line, provoking a disproportionate response by Israeli forces. In their view, the goal of the Syrian Arab Republic was to distract national and international opinion from the abuses being committed by the Syrian regime against peaceful demonstrators calling for democratic reforms.

Some other Council members stated that there was no connection between the events of 5 June in the Golan and the internal situation of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Resolution 1994 (2011) extending the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force was adopted unanimously by the 15 members of the Council.

Europe

On 13 June, the Council held consultations to examine the assessment report of the Secretary-General concerning the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2011/332).

The Council members heard from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Head of the United Nations Mission in Cyprus, Lisa Buttenheim.

The Council reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's good offices mission in Cyprus, and welcomed his personal involvement in promoting a real and constructive negotiation process between the two parties, including his planned meeting with the respective community leaders on 7 July 2011.

Members welcomed the calm in the buffer zone during the time period under consideration and the satisfactory cooperation of the opposing forces with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which helped to promote military confidence-building measures that contributed to the peace process.

The Council also commended UNFICYP for facilitating the exchange of information between the parties with regard to crime, criminal matters and cultural heritage. It welcomed the satisfactory continuation of the humanitarian activities of the Committee on Missing Persons and the positive role the parties played in the opening of new crossing points that could improve overall trust between the communities.

Council members subsequently identified a number of concerns: they regretted the restrictions placed on the movement of locally recruited United Nations civilian personnel, which in its view ran counter to a key operational principle of the Organization.

They urged the two parties to spare no effort in ensuring that the mandate of UNFICYP was fully respected with regard to challenges to its authority made by individuals in the buffer zone.

Lastly, the Council expressed its concern at the continuing threat posed by mines in Cyprus, particularly in the buffer zone.

The Council adopted resolution 1986 (2011), extending the mandate of UNFICYP for six months until 15 December 2011, and taking into account the changing situation on the ground and the important role that UNFICYP continued to play on the island by providing security and encouraging cooperation and trust between the two communities.

Security Council open meeting on drugs and crime

The Council on 24 June received a briefing from the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on drug trafficking and its threat to international peace and security. Council members expressed support for the work of UNODC.

Recommendation of the appointment of Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Having received only one candidacy, that of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Security Council decided to shorten the review process of his candidacy.

To that end, in line with the established procedure, the Council scheduled consultations for 16 June and a private meeting for 17 June.

During private consultations on 16 June, Noël Nelson Messone, in his capacity as the President of the Security Council, explained to Council members the legal procedure applicable to the review and recommendation for the appointment of Mr. Ban Ki-moon to the General Assembly.

At its 6556th meeting, held in private on 17 June 2011, the Council considered the question of the recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In accordance with the usual procedure, the Security Council adopted by acclamation resolution 1987 (2011), recommending to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for a second term of office from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2016. The Council members also decided to sponsor the General Assembly resolution appointing Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

Thematic issues

Debate on the impact of HIV/AIDS on international peace and security

The Security Council held a high-level debate on 7 June 2011 on the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on international security.

In addition to the President of the Republic of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba, who chaired the debate, the following eminent persons took part in this important meeting: the Secretary-General of the United Nations; the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan; the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Kgalema Motlanthe; the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the French Republic, Alain Juppé; and the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Michel Sidibé.

At the outset, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1983 (2011), which is an extension of resolution 1308 (2000). That resolution was sponsored by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United States of America, France, Gabon, Nigeria, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Pursuant to the resolution, the Security Council recognized the need to intensify efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in conflict and post-conflict situations by focusing on the following:

- Encouraging the incorporation, as appropriate, of HIV/AIDS-related programmes in the implementation of mandated tasks of United Nations peacekeeping operations;
- Providing assistance, as appropriate, to national institutions with respect to security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, with special attention to the needs of people vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, such as women and girls;
- Encouraging cooperation among troop-contributing and other countries with the goal of intensifying HIV/AIDS prevention activities within United Nations peacekeeping missions;

- Ensuring the effectiveness of the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy aimed at punishing civilian and uniformed United Nations personnel found guilty of sexual abuse and all other forms of violence committed during their deployment.

Subsidiary bodies of the Council

International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia

The Security Council considered the reports submitted by the Presidents and Prosecutors of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda pursuant to resolution 1534 (2004) on the implementation of completion strategy at its 6545th meeting on 6 June 2011.

Following a statement on the progress made and the challenges the tribunals face in the process of completion of their work, the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Judge Patrick Robinson, asked the Council to consider the following measures to support functioning of the tribunals:

- The granting of a retention payment to staff members with more than five years seniority who are supposed to remain in office until the closure of ICTY;
- The creation of a compensation fund for victims of crimes that fall within the jurisdiction of the Tribunals;
- Agreements between States members and the tribunals with respect to the enforcement of sentences.

The President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Khan, joined Judge Robinson's opinion.

The debate provided Council members with an opportunity to reaffirm:

- The importance of combating impunity and strengthening the international criminal justice system. In that regard, the Member States welcomed the arrests, on 25 and 26 May 2011, of Ratko Mladić and Bernard Munyagishari as clear signs of cooperation from Serbia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- The importance of completion by the tribunals of all their work within the time frame established by Security Council resolution 1966 (2010)
- The need to strengthen the capacities of the Tribunals in order to ensure a smooth transition to the International Residual Mechanism.

In that regard, the Council members stressed the need to closely examine unresolved issues in connection with the establishment of the residual mechanism.

Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

On 27 June, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria and Chair of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Joy Ogwu, gave a briefing on the Group's work.

In her report, Ms. Ogwu stated that, at the first meeting held on 18 February 2011, the Group had adopted its programme of work for the first half of 2011, focusing on the challenges facing missions responding to changes in political situations and missions deployed for special situations, such as UNMIS, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and MONUSCO. The Group also looked at exit strategies and transition to peacebuilding.

The Group also planned to examine developments concerning certain peacekeeping mandates, and initiated consultations between troop-contributing countries and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to discuss the challenges facing peacekeeping missions whose mandates were set to expire on 30 June 2011. Accordingly, the Working Group held meetings on 7 and 27 April to discuss the developments and challenges facing UNMIS, UNAMID and MONUSCO, missions that were dealing with volatile political situations in the countries where they were deployed.

During the debates, Council members were of the view that, in the case of UNMIS and UNAMID, several crucial issues, including citizenship, security, wealth- and asset-sharing arrangements and eligibility, must be resolved on an urgent basis before South Sudan proclaimed its independence.

At the same time, it was observed that substantial progress had been made with regard to border arrangements. Several delegations mentioned the possibility of a post-UNMIS presence and the need for a military component to support the political process following the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Delegations expressed concern at the transfer of personnel and equipment once the current UNMIS mandate expired; the coordination between Joint Integrated Units and UNMIS; the challenges of protecting civilians associated with the mandate of UNMIS; joint operations between northern and southern Sudan and UNAMID; and the ability to conduct emergency helicopter flights to protect civilians without prior authorization from Sudanese authorities.